

Awards

Captain Patrick Neher

Captain Patrick Neher was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding meritorious achievement while serving as Director, International and Operational Law Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Washington, DC from July to September 2006.

During the period of this award, the nation was transfixed on the efforts of the Executive and Legislative Branches to craft the Military Commissions Act of 2006. Demonstrating his mastery not only of international and national precedents for war crime tribunals, but also expertise regarding courts-martial procedure, Captain Neher assumed the lead in representing the Department of the Navy in the interagency process. He influenced the legislative proposal in numerous and substantive ways,

earning the praise of all who worked to address the significant issues identified by the Supreme Court in the *Hamden v. Rumsfeld* decision.

His unparalleled understanding of the Geneva Conventions and remarkable ability to weave the many complicated strands of law and policy pertaining to the handling of unlawful enemy combatants into a single, authoritative tapestry proved instrumental in his insightful briefings to the Secretary of the Navy and in preparing the Judge Advocate General for testimony before both the Senate Judiciary Committee and the House Armed Services Committee.

Captain Neher never tired nor wavered in providing round-the-clock support to this historic effort and, through his personal efforts, ensured



the law reached an appropriate balance between the national security interests of the United States and the individual rights of those brought before military commissions.

The exceptional professional ability, steadfast initiative, and selfless dedication to duty exhibited by Captain Neher reflected great credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Mr. Joseph Baggett

The Judge Advocate General takes pleasure in commending Mr. Joseph Baggett for outstanding meritorious achievement while serving as Deputy Director, International and Operational Law Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Washington, DC from July to September 2006.

During the period of this award, the nation was transfixed on the efforts of the Executive and Legislative Branches to craft the Military Commissions Act of 2006. Demonstrating mastery of international and national precedents for war crime tribunals, Mr. Baggett provided outstanding support in the development of Navy input and positions during the interagency process. Through his many contributions, the legislative proposal was positively influenced in numerous and substantive ways, earning recognition of those who worked to address the significant issues identified by the Supreme Court in the *Hamden v. Rumsfeld* decision.

His authoritative interpretations of the Geneva Conventions, combined with an expertise in legislative

affairs, proved instrumental in preparing the Judge Advocate General for testimony before both the Senate Judiciary Committee and the House Armed Services Committee.

Mr. Baggett provided round-the-clock support to this historic effort and, through his personal efforts, ensured the law reached an appropriate balance between the national security interests of the United States and the individual rights of those brought before military commissions.

The exceptional professional ability, steadfast initiative, and selfless dedication to duty exhibited by Mr. Baggett reflected great credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.



Awards



Mr. Koichi Sekizawa

Mr. Koichi Sekizawa received the Master Labor Contract (MLC) Employee Enabler of the Year award from Rear Admiral James Kelly at the annual Commander, Naval Forces Japan holiday event. Sekizawa-san has worked for the Navy for 30 years and is the recognized expert on foreign criminal jurisdiction (FCJ). Rear Admiral Kelly chose him for this award because of his exceptional work during the Reese case (U.S. servicemember tried in Japanese court) in January 2006 and his continued devotion to duty. For example, Sekizawa-san has been part of two fly-away teams to Misawa and Sasebo for high-profile FCJ cases where his experience was required.

See your name in print!
Submit your command awards
or photos to
jennifer.zeldis@navy.mil

News and Notes

The publication of the latest edition of Naval Law Review, Volume 53, is on the JAG webpage of Navy Knowledge Online (NKO).

The Naval Law Review is the Sea Services' pre-eminent forum for scholarly legal discussion, and the efforts of the following authors and the editors who assisted them are greatly appreciated: Col. James P. Terry, USMC (Ret.); Col. Joseph L. Falvey, Jr., USMCR; Capt. Keith J. Allred, JAGC, USN; Capt. Eileen C. Riley, JAGC, USN; Cmdr. Andrew H. Henderson, JAGC, USN; Cmdr. Sean P. Henseler, JAGC, USN; Lt. Cmdr. James Paul Benoit, JAGC, USN; Lt. Cmdr. Eva Loser, JAGC, USN; Lt. Cmdr. Peter R. Koebler, JAGC, USN; Lt. Cmdr. Sabatino F. Leo, JAGC, USN; Lt. Cmdr. Timothy D. Stone, JAGC, USN; Lt. Cmdr. Jay Tangney, JAGC, USN; Lt. Cmdr. Ann M. Vallandingham, JAGC, USN; Lt. Mark A. Lindsey,

JAGC, USN; Lt. Steven R. Obert, USN; Lt. James M. O'Brien, JAGC, USN; Lt. Kevin R. Powers, JAGC, USN; Lt. Kristina B. Reeves, JAGC, USN; Lt. Dustin E. Wallace, JAGC, USN; Capt. Joseph C. Silvio, USMC; Lt.j.g. Salvatore F. Vonella, JAGC, USN; Ms. Heather DePremio; and Ms. Sara Espahbodi.

Whether the intention is to educate the Sea Services' legal community in an area of the law you find interesting or to fuel discussion on a current issue, the Naval Law Review provides an excellent outlet to communicate your ideas. Publication in the Naval Law Review is definitive recognition of your commitment to scholarly pursuits of interest to the Sea Services. All are encouraged to take full advantage of this opportunity.

Submissions to the Naval Law Review may be forwarded to Lt. Mark Lindsey, Editor-in-Chief, at mark.lindsey@navy.mil.